



8 Bible studies in

John 13-18

‘O what a night’



John 13-18... 'O what a night'

Why focus in on this part of John?

Do the maths. The Apostle John has spilt a lot of ink on it— almost 6 chapters of his Gospel account— 6 out of 21 chapters – not far off a third of the whole book. It obviously was very important in John's mind. He was there. Inspired by the holy Spirit, he has made sure we get this material.

John wrote his account much later than the other 3 'synoptic' gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke, who covered a lot of similar ground in telling us about Jesus' life and ministry, though they each have their own way of telling the story. John though, adds a lot more additional information. It's like he was very aware of the other Gospel accounts and thought—there's a few more things I saw that help us appreciate Jesus. An expanded look at that last night before Jesus was executed was clearly something the inspired Apostle thought we should think about in depth.

Which makes sense, given it's when Jesus literally had his last opportunity to prepare the disciples for the most tumultuous event of all history. Jesus' death and resurrection would really throw the disciples around. The things Jesus talked about on that night are the most crucial things to have at the forefront of anyone's thinking when your world is about to be turned upside down.

So we do well to take some time to take in much of what was said and done on that night.



Some tips for getting the most out of these studies...

With each question, sometimes there's a follow up question or two included at the same number. This is to just help draw it out a bit more. You may get it with the first one so don't panic if you end up saying the same thing in thinking about the follow up question—just move on.

Also, don't panic if you can't quite see what a question might be driving at. These questions are not the Bible. The questions are just an attempt to help us get into the passage/issue. Let the Bible passage drive things at the end of the day. Feel free to move on if you've had a crack at it.

Most important of all. Pray. Ask God to guide the thinking. Think about how this all fits into His plan to bring us into a good relationship with Him. Think about how this all effects your personal situation as well as that of those around you.

a dirty faith



kick off

'Do as I say, not as I do.'
What's the fallout with
this kind of attitude?



key verse

John 13:1...

"... he now showed them
the full extent of his love."



big idea

Real faith gets involved.

read John 13:1-17



investigate

1. What's the poignancy of the moment at the start of chapter 13 with this night Jesus was about to spend with his close disciples? (v1)
2. Why are Jesus' actions so surprising? (v 2-8) Think about Peter's reaction as well as how Judas still gets included even though there is the terrible revelation of v2 (confirmed in v11).
3. What do you make of Jesus' reply in v10-11 to Peter's bold request of v9? What's the difference between taking a bath and just having your feet washed, spiritually speaking?
4. Do you think the disciples understood what Jesus was demonstrating to them? (v12)
5. Why are Jesus' actions in the end not that surprising given Isaiah's prophecy? (*see Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, 52:13-53:12*)
6. What's the sting in the tail with this powerful but humble demonstration and explanation or live parable? (V13-17)
7. If you knew you only had a day to live, what kind of things would you want to talk to your closest family and friends about?
8. What is so offensive about this incident to a Muslim when as Christians we insist that Jesus is Lord? Does Jesus use his power differently to Mohammed and the rest of us for that matter?
9. Do you need a bath or just a foot wash, spiritually speaking? What about our society?
10. How can we get serious about serving one another at Church –getting our hands dirty in a good way? What do we miss out on when we don't?



think & apply

Pray in response to this chapter...



prayer points



through the week

read:
John 13:18-38



* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

an essential faith



Share a time when you have made bold claims only to end up with egg on your face.



John 13:38... "Will you really lay down your life for me?"



Only Jesus can save.

read John 13:18-38



1. Any significance in Jesus hope that his knowledge of upcoming events in v 18-20 would enable the disciples to "believe that I am He." (see *Exodus 3:13-14, John 8:58*)

2. Why do you think Jesus was "troubled in spirit"?

3. Why were all the disciples, even "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (probably the author, John), except of course for Judas, also troubled, even to the point of failing to pick up on Jesus' strong clue as to who would betray him? (v21-30)

4. How could the "Son of Man" and "God" be glorified if Jesus was to be betrayed? (v31-32) Any clue in the following verses? (v33-35)

5. What is the sober reality to Jesus' strong response to Peter's boldness in the last part of this chapter? (v36-38)

6. What Jesus was about to do clearly no one else could do. Does that mean there is nothing for us to do? Scan back over v20 and 34-35.



7. What does our society think of the "glorification" of Jesus and God in the cross? If not much, why?

8. How do we all tend to want to be like Peter?

9. Is there still a laying down of our life that we need to consider? See *Mark 8:34-38*. Is Jesus contradicting himself here in John 13?

10. What does it look like for us to love like Jesus commands here?



Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week

read:
John 14:1-30

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a comforting faith



kick off

You're visiting someone facing imminent death. What can you say?



key verse

John 14:27... "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."



big idea

Only Jesus can bring lasting comfort.

read John 14:1-30



investigate

1. Why are Jesus' opening words in chapter 14 so comforting? (v1-4) Who is undergirding these amazing prospects?

2. Do the questions of the disciples remind you of contemporary questions many have of Jesus? (v5,8)

3. Take into account the sorts of things that have happened with Jesus up till this night. Do they fit with his claims here? (v6-7, 9-14) *See also Isaiah 61:1-3.*

4. How could the disciples expect to still "see" Jesus when Jesus would be leaving them soon? (v15-21)

5. How do the Father and Son, as well as the Spirit "make (their) home" with those who love Jesus? (v22-27) What does that look like?

6. Why is it better that Jesus would be leaving the disciples? (v28-31)



think & apply

7. Explain why Heaven will be so great? How does Jesus' version differ to common conceptions floating around our society?

8. Think about the reasons people give for rejecting or ignoring Jesus' claims on their lives. Why are they more excuses given what Jesus has done and said?

9. What kind of artillery does the Christian have to face adversity compared to those who don't know Jesus? Can you share a personal example?

10. How have you seen great things happen, "even greater things" (v12) than what the disciples saw?



prayer points

Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week



read:
John 15:1-16:4

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a fruitful faith



It's been said...
'When God feels far away, guess who moved?' Any comments?



John 15:4...
"Remain in me, and I will remain in you."



We've got to stay connected with Jesus.

read John 15:1-16:4



1. Why would Jesus start talking a lot about the need to "remain in (him)"? (v4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 — think about the content of the previous chapter)

2. Why would the analogy of the vine and its branches be a familiar one for the disciples? *See Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7.*

3. Explain how the analogy works? (a degree in horticultural science is not essential) Think about why some branches fail to produce fruit while others just need some pruning and how that all relates to being connected to Jesus.

4. How do we get connected to Jesus in the first place? (v3) How do we stay connected? (v7)

5. Why is this not about earning our salvation? (compare v8 and v10)

6. How does Jesus go onto show the disciples that he has our best interests at heart with these strong warnings? (v11-17)



7. Why do you think Jesus keeps on saying the same thing as he explains the analogy of the vine and the branches?

8. Have you seen unfruitful branches? Are they happy? How do they get to this point?

9. What are the sorts of things you've seen people do who are fruitful? Are they happy? How do they get to this point?

10. Why would anyone want to walk away from a friendship with God through Jesus? What are they grossly discounting?



Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week

read:
John 15:18-16:4

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a tested faith



kick off

Is it false advertising to say that being a Christian is so fantastic?



key verse

John 15:20...

"If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."



big idea

To follow Jesus isn't always easy in this world.

read John 15:18-16:4



investigate

1. Is the negative reaction Jesus is talking about here just a possibility or something more? (bear in mind the "if" in v18 in the Greek John used is more definite than in English— not so 'iffy') Was Jesus just referring to the 12 disciples?

2. Why would "the world" or people who don't know Jesus "hate" it that disciples or Christians don't "belong to the world" and are "chosen"? (v19)

3. Who are people really venting their anger at when they take it out on relatively innocent Christians? (v20-25)

4. *See Psalm 35:19 and Psalm 69:4.* Remembering how Jesus is the 'greater Son of David', can you see how David's words in these Psalms came to mind for Jesus in v25?

5. There is some difference between the disciples or Apostles who spent 3 years with Jesus and Christians ever since. Why would they come in for special attention from the world? (v26-chapter 16, v4)

6. Why would those trying to kill the Apostles think they were giving God a hand? (16:2)



think & apply

7. Do you ever feel any negativity from those around you because of your faith in Jesus? How do we sometimes bring it on ourselves?

8. What is it about Jesus that people struggle with? Can you give an example?

9. Why are we so surprised when we do get a negative reaction simply because we have been following Jesus?

10. How does the Holy Spirit help us through these testing times?



prayer points

Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week



read: John 16:5-33

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a distant faith?



kick off

'I can't see Jesus or God. So why should I believe in Him?' Your response?



key verse

John 16:7...

"It is for your good that I am going away."



big idea

Even though we can't see Jesus, he is still with us.

read John 16:5-33



investigate

1. Why does Jesus reckon that it will be better that he leaves the disciples even though it will cause them obvious grief? (5-11)
2. Why are three key roles of the Counsellor in "convicting the world... in regard to" ... "sin" (v9), "righteousness" (v10) and "Judgment" (v11) good? *See 1 Corinthians 12:3, 14:20-25*
3. How will "the Spirit of truth" help the disciples? (v12-15) Who will he point the disciples to?
4. What is Jesus referring to in v16 with "a little while"? How would the analogy of "a woman giving birth" help the disciples to deal with the issue of "the little while's"? (v17-24) Was their "joy complete"? (v24)
5. What is the key benefit for believers of the Spirit coming post resurrection (or after all the "little while's") that Jesus talks more about in v25-28? How does that help in knowing how to pray in Jesus' name? *If time, see Jeremiah 31:31-34, especially v33.*
6. What is the sober reality post resurrection though, before believers see Jesus' face to face again, despite the blessing of the Holy Spirit? (v29-33)
7. How do Christians sometimes miss the point of the Holy Spirit? Can he be turned into just a power or an abused member of the Trinity?
8. Think about how the Spirit works today. Can you share an example of when the Holy Spirit has helped you to see something about God/Jesus "plainly"?
9. Think more about the work of the Holy Spirit today. How has He helped you know that God/Jesus is with you even though you have been going through a painful time?
10. So how would you respond to the person who says they need to see Jesus before they could believe in him? What should we ask for them in Jesus' name?



think & apply

Pray in response to this chapter...



prayer points



through the week

read:
John 17:1-26

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a praying faith



'God didn't answer my prayers. So I don't pray anymore.' Your response?



John 17:21... "May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."



Real prayer trusts God's agenda.

read John 17:1-5



1. What are the main concerns of Jesus when he prays for himself?
2. Is he selfish in wanting glory? What is the purpose of it all? Who benefits?

read John 17:6-19

3. What are the main concerns of Jesus when he prays for these special disciples, later to be known as apostles? Why did they come in for special treatment?
4. Why would it be comforting for the disciples to hear this prayer?

read John 17:20-26

5. What are the main concerns of Jesus when he prays for us?
6. Why does true unity amongst Christians give glory to Jesus and God the Father?
7. If God knows what we're thinking before we tell him about it, what's the point of prayer? See *Matthew 6:7-8*. Who's the main beneficiary?
8. What kind of things do we love to pray about? How do they compare with Jesus' focus?
9. Does this all mean all the 'shopping list' goes out the window? Compare *John 16:24*.
10. What difference would it make to the cause of the Gospel if we kept God's main agenda at the forefront?



Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week

read:
John 18:1-27

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

a costly faith



kick off

Who really put Jesus on the cross?



key verse

John 18:11... "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"



big idea

We are lost without Jesus dying for us.

read John 18:1-27



investigate

1. Note the many clues in the scene leading to Jesus' arrest in v1-11 that indicate Jesus was hardly taken by surprise nor sought to avoid his arrest. What's different now? *See John 6:14-15, 7:1, 8:58-59 and remember John 13:1, 21.*

2. What does John want us to pick up on by recalling the high priest's previous words about Jesus? (v12-14) *See John 11:45-53.*

3. Would a reader of this account for the first time be totally taken aback by Peter's denial of Jesus? (v15-18) *Recall John 13:36-38*

4. Was Jesus like a schoolboy in the headmaster's office, or maybe even like a secret agent before his nemesis? (v19-24)

5. Can you answer for the official in v23? *Recall John 11:45-53.*

6. How does Peter dig and even bigger hole for himself? (v25-27)



think & apply

7. How does it make you feel that Jesus would willingly walk into all the terrible things that climaxed on this fateful night, for you?

8. What are the massive encouragements from these last moments of that night for us to shun any thought that we can save ourselves? Just think about Peter and the high priest and everyone else who had a part to play that night.

9. *Read Romans 5:6-8.* How does Paul make sense of this seemingly disastrous last night for Jesus? Hardly something we can downplay. Why do some though?

10. Having spent some considerable time now taking in a lot of what happened on that incredible last night for Jesus, what sticks out in your mind?



prayer points

Pray in response to this chapter...



through the week



read:
John 20:24-31

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *